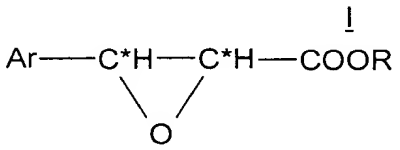
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

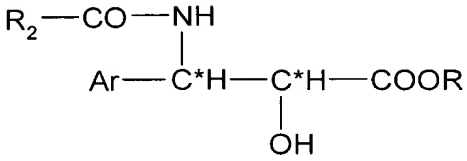
LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.-11. (Canceled)

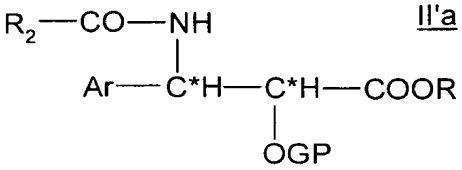
12. (Previously Presented) A precursor compound of at least one taxane side chain, wherein said precursor compound comprises at least one compound of formulae I, IIa, II'a, IIIb and III'b, or derivatives thereof:



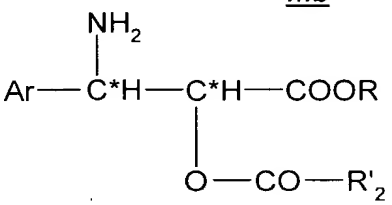
I



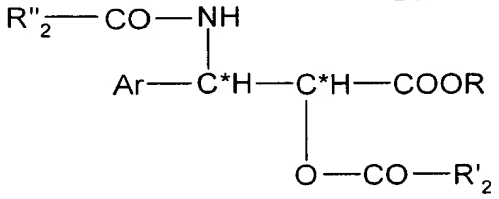
IIa



II'a



IIIb



III'b

wherein

Ar is an aryl radical, R_2 is an aryl radical, R'_2 is an aryl radical, a lower alkyl radical, or a lower perhaloalkyl radical, R''_2 is an aryl radical, a lower alkyl radical, or a lower perhaloalkyl radical, and GP is a protective group, and

R represents an optically pure enantiomer of a highly sterically hindered chiral hydrocarbon radical.

13. (Previously Presented) A compound according to one of claims 12 or 14, wherein R is a menthyl radical enantiomer, optionally (+)-menthyl.

14. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 12, wherein the cis-β-phenylglycidate derivative of general formula I is of (2R, 3R) configuration, and the derivatives of general formulae IIa, IIIb and III'b are of (2R, 3S) configuration.

15. (Canceled)

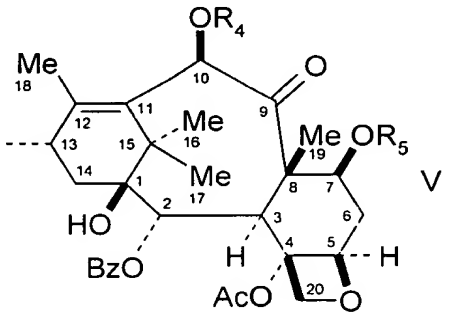
16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a taxane of general formula IV,

C-B IV

wherein

B represents a radical of general formula V



wherein

Ac is an acetyl radical,

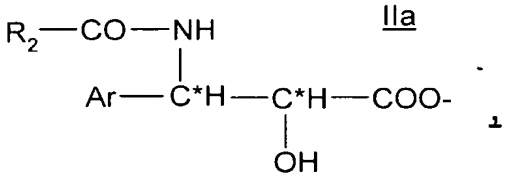
Bz is a benzyl radical,

Me is a methyl radical,

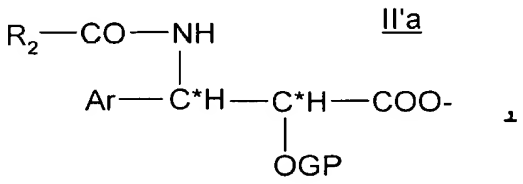
R_4 is an acetyl radical, or a protective group for the hydroxyl functional group, represented by GP1,

R_5 is a protective group for the hydroxyl functional group represented by GP2, wherein GP1 and GP2 are chosen independently of one another from conventional protective groups employed in a hemisynthesis of taxanes, and

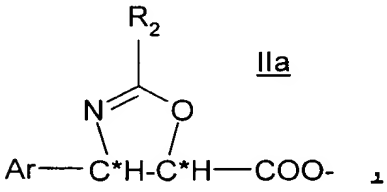
C is a side chain ~~chosen from~~ <u>of</u> formulae ~~IIa, II'a, IIb, IIIa, III'a, IIIb, and III'b~~:



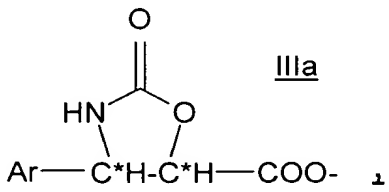
IIa



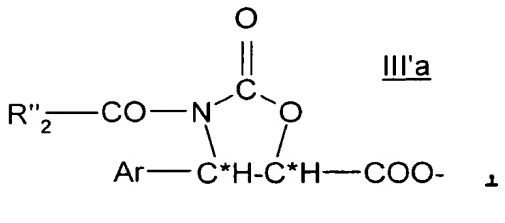
II'a



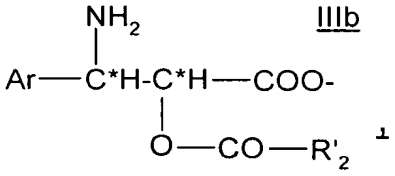
IIa



IIIa

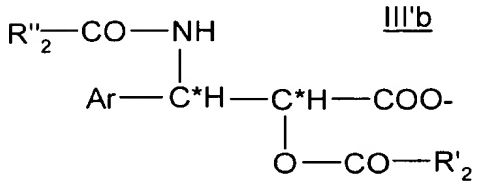


III'a



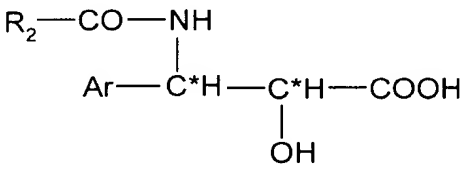
IIIb

or



III'b

wherein Ar is an aryl radical, R_2 is an aryl radical, R'_2 is an aryl radical, a lower alkyl radical, or a lower perhaloalkyl radical, R''_2 is an aryl radical, a lower alkyl radical, or a lower perhaloalkyl radical, and GP is a protective group, comprising esterifying an appropriate baccatin ~~III derivative of general formula V~~, carrying a C-13 hydroxyl functional group, with a ~~derivative~~ compound of formulae ~~IIa, II'a, IIb, IIIa, III'a, IIIb, or III'b, wherein R represents a hydrogen atom,~~



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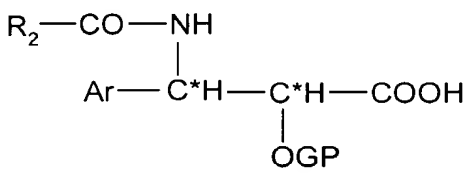

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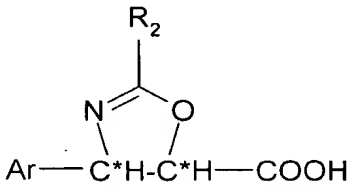

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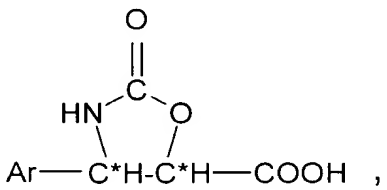

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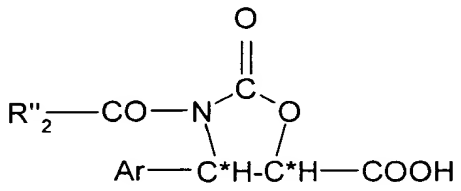

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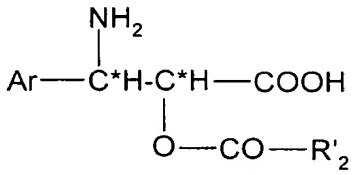

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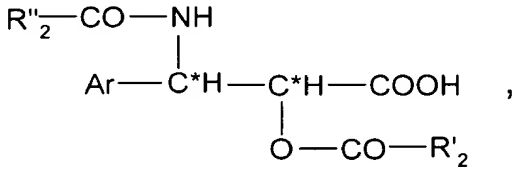


,

and is obtained by controlled saponification.

18. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 17, wherein the GP1 and GP2 protective groups are independently chosen from trialkylsilyls, TROC, linear or branched bulky haloalkoxycarbonyl radicals comprising at least one halogen atom, acyl radicals in which the carbon α to the carbonyl functional group carries at least one oxygen atom, or a trialkylgermanyl radical, or GP1 and GP2 together form a divalent radical of formula

$$-SiR_7\text{-}O\text{-}SiR_8-$$

wherein

R_7 and R_8, independently of one another, each represent a sterically hindered alkyl radical.

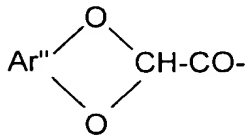
19. (Previously Presented) A process according to either one of claims 17 or 18, wherein the acyl radicals in which the carbon α to the carbonyl functional group carries at least one oxygen atom are chosen from

- alkoxy- or aryloxyacetyl radicals of formula

$$R_6\text{-}O\text{-}CH_2\text{-}CO\text{-}$$

wherein R_6 is a sterically hindered alkyl radical, a cycloalkyl radical, or an aryl radical,

- or arylidenedioxyacetyl radicals of formula



wherein Ar'' represents an arylidene radical.

20. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 19, wherein:

the sterically hindered alkyl radical is a linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkyl radical, substituted by at least one bulky substituent chosen from halogens, linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkyl, linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkoxy, C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl, and aryl radicals,

the cycloalkyl radical is a C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl radical, optionally substituted by at least one bulky substituent independently chosen from halogens, linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkyl, linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkoxy, and aryl radicals,

the aryl radical is a phenyl, naphthyl, anthryl or phenanthryl radical, optionally substituted by at least one bulky substituent chosen from halogens, linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkyl, linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkoxy, or aryl radicals, and

the arylidene radical is a phenylene, naphthylene, anthrylene or phenanthrylene radical, optionally substituted by at least one bulky substituent chosen from halogens, linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkyl, linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkoxy, and aryl radicals.

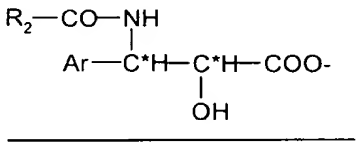
21. (Previously Presented) A process according to either one of claims 17 or 18, wherein R_4 represents an acetyl radical, and GP2 is chosen from a trialkylsilyl, 2,2,2-trichloroethoxycarbonyl, 2,2,2-tribromoethoxycarbonyl, 2,2,2,1-tetrachloroethoxycarbonyl, 2,2,2-trichloro-*t*-butoxycarbonyl, trichloromethoxycarbonyl, phenoxyacetyl, and trialkylgermanyl radicals.

22. (Previously Presented) A process according to either one of claims 17 or 18, wherein R_4 represents a GP1 group, and GP1 and GP2 are independently chosen from a 2,2,2-trichloroethoxy-carbonyl and a phenoxyacetyl radical, or together form a divalent radical of formula

$$-SiR_7\text{-}O\text{-}SiR_8-$$

in which R_7 and R_8 each represent an isopropyl radical.

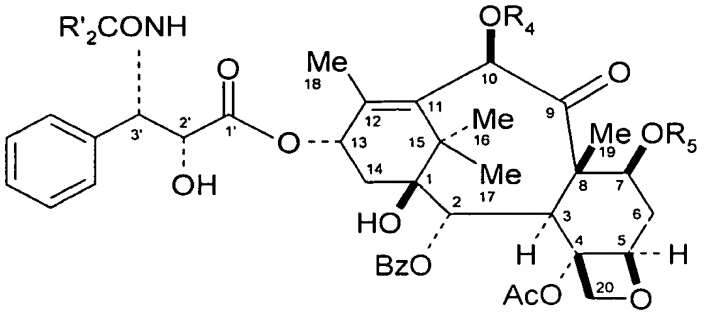
23. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 17 or 18, wherein

C is a radical ~~of formula IIa with Ar~~  ; and

R_2 is a phenyl radical; and

R_4 is an acetyl radical.

24. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 17 or 18, further comprising deprotecting the hydroxyls of the derivatives of general formula IV and optionally, simultaneously or separately, opening the oxazoline ring of the radicals of formula IIb or IIIa wherein a taxane derivative of general formula VI is produced



wherein

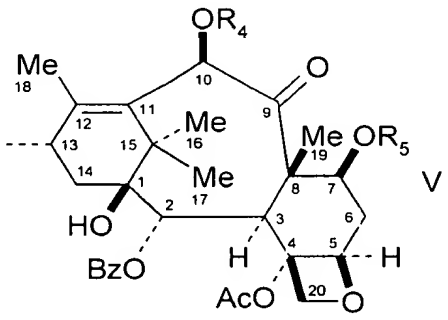
Ac is an acetyl radical, Bz is a benzyl radical, Me is a methyl radical, and R'_2 is an aryl radical, a lower alkyl radical, or a lower perhaloalkyl radical,

R_4 represents a hydrogen atom or an acetyl radical, and

R_5 represents a hydrogen atom.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Withdrawn) A baccatin III derivative which is of use in the hemisynthesis of taxanes, chosen from derivatives of general formula V



wherein

Ac is an acetyl radical,

Bz is an benzyl radical,

Me is a methyl radical,

R_4 is an acetyl radical or a protective group for the hydroxyl functional group represented by GP 1,

R_5 is a protective group for the hydroxyl functional group represented by GP2, wherein

GP1 and GP2 are selected independently of one another from

bulky haloalkoxycarbonyl radicals, with the exception of TROC, acyl radicals in which a carbon α to the carbonyl functional group carries at least one oxygen atom, and trialkylgermanyl radicals, or

GP 1 and GP2 together form a divalent radical of formula

$$-SiR_7-O-SiR_8-$$

wherein

R_7 and R_8, selected independently of one another, represent a sterically hindered alkyl radical.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the cycloalkyl radical is cyclohexyl, optionally substituted by at least one linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkyl radical.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the cyclohexyl radical is selected from menthyl, its enantiomers, and mixtures of its enantiomers in any proportion.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the aryl radical is substituted by at least one phenyl radical.

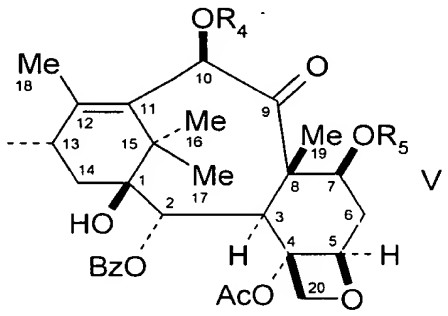
30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein said at least one phenyl radical is substituted by one or two bulky substituents ortho- and ortho'- to the ether bond.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the arylidene radical is substituted by at least one phenyl radical.

32. (Withdrawn) A taxane derivative of general formula IV

C-B IV

wherein B is a radical of general formula V:



wherein

Ac is an acetyl radical,

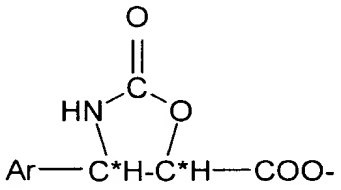
Bz is an benzyl radical,

Me is a methyl radical,

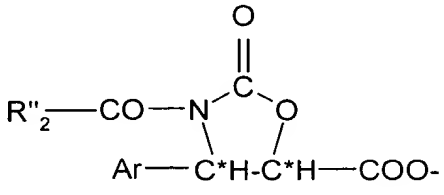
R_4 is an acetyl radical, or a protective group for the hydroxyl functional group, represented by GP1, and

R_5 is a protective group for the hydroxyl functional group represented by GP2, wherein GP1 and GP2 are selected independently of one another from conventional protective groups employed in the hemisynthesis of taxanes;

and wherein C is a side chain selected from formulae IIIa and III'a:



IIIa



III'a

wherein Ar is an aryl radical, and $R"_2$ is chosen from an aryl radical, a lower alkyl radical, and a lower perhaloalkyl radical.

33. (Withdrawn) The taxane derivative of claim 32, wherein said conventional protective groups employed in the hemisynthesis of taxanes are chosen from trialkylsilyls and TROC.